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Simply put, Schneier fails to disclose or suggest all the limitations of claim 1. In particular, Schneier does not disclose or suggest nested commit/reveal sequences as recited in claim 1. In applying the reference to the claimed first-type commit/reveal sequence, Examiner has cited col. 2, lines 2-5 of Schneier. In the cited section, Schneier discloses a random number generator and does not disclose or suggest committing the first-type commit/reveal sequence to a set of outcomes. In applying the reference to the second-type commit/reveal sequence, Examiner relies on col. 5, lines 20-37 of the cited reference. Whatever Schneier does disclose, it does not disclose or suggest a second commit/reveal sequence nested within the first. Further, in the cited reference, the server does not commit to a set of outcomes and certainly does not select from the [committed] set of outcomes based on a predefined combination operation on the index contributions as recited in the claim. In contrast, the server receives random numbers from each player first and then generates its own random number. Thus the cited reference does not disclose or teach all the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from the cited reference. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and those dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance.

As for claim 11, Schneier does not disclose or suggest encoding of a predetermined set of outcomes and selection of a particular one of the outcomes for revealing to the one or more players based on a combination of the player indices. Instead, Schneier merely describes the generation and encoding of a random number by the server together with the communication and combination of player random numbers to generate a game result. Accordingly, claim 11 is patentably distinguishable from the cited reference. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 and those dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance.

In rejecting claim 20, Examiner has generally relied upon reasoning similar to that employed in rejecting claim 1. Whatever Schneier does disclose, it does not disclose or suggest receiving predetermined set of outcomes. Further, in the cited reference, the server does not commit to a set of outcomes and certainly does not access a particular one of the outcomes selected based on a combination of the player input, as recited in the claim. In contrast, the server receives random numbers from each player first and then generates its own random number. Thus the cited reference does not disclose or teach all the limitations of claim 20. Accordingly,

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claim 20 is patentably distinguishable from the cited reference. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 and those dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance.

In rejecting claim 25, Examiner has generally relied upon reasoning similar to that employed in rejecting claim 1. Whatever Schneier does disclose, it does not disclose or suggest a commitment sequence executable to supply a transformationally secured set of outcomes. Further, Schneier does not disclose or suggest Selecting a particular one of the outcomes based on a combination of the player indices. Accordingly, claim 25 is patentably distinguishable from the cited reference. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 25 and those dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Claim 28 has been rejected in the manner of claims 1-19. Applicants respectfully submit that in light of remarks set forth in response to the rejections of claim 1-19, claim 28 is patentably distinguishable from the cited reference. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 28 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 29 has been rejected in the manner of claims 1-19. Applicants respectfully submit that in light of remarks set forth in response to the rejections of claim 1-19, claim 29 is patentably distinguishable from the cited reference. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 29 and those dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Claim 31 has been rejected in the manner of claims 1-19. Applicants respectfully submit that in light of remarks set forth in response to the rejections of claim 1-19, claim 31 is patentably distinguishable from the cited reference. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 31 and those dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Claim 35 has been rejected in the manner of claims 1-19. Applicants respectfully submit that in light of remarks set forth in response to the rejections of claim 1-19, claim 35 is patentably distinguishable from the cited reference. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 35 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-35 are believed allowable and Applicant respectfully requests a notice to that effect. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be susceptible to resolution during a telephonic interview, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at the number listed below.

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.	
	9-23-02
Abdul R. Zindani	Date

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH
37 C.F.R. § 121(c)(ii)

15 (Amended). The method of claim 11, further comprising:
effectively randomizing the set of outcomes by further combining the player indices with
[the] a randomized index.

18 (Amended). The method of claim 11,
wherein the transformational securing of the [randomized set encoding] predetermined
set of outcomes includes cryptographically securing the set of outcomes.

19 (Amended). The method of claim 11,
wherein the transformational securing of the [randomized set encoding] predetermined
set of outcomes includes cryptographically securing individual outcomes of the
set thereof.

24 (Amended). The method of claim 20,
wherein outcomes of the transformationally secured set thereof are individually secured;
and
wherein the accessing includes receiving an encoding of the particular outcome for
verification against [the] corresponding individually secured outcome.

32 (Amended). The method of claim [1] 31,
wherein the information encodes the selected outcome.

33 (Amended). The method of claim [1] 31,
wherein the information includes a key to reveal at least the selected one of the outcomes
from the supplied transformationally secured encoding thereof.

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34 (Amended). The method of claim [1] 31,
wherein the computer-readable encoding includes at least one message suitable for
communication between a gaming server and a client thereof.